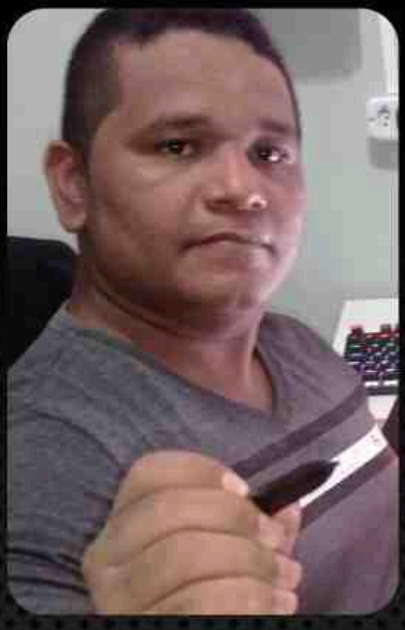
AVENGERS · X-MEN · ETERNALS
DEATH TO THE MUTANTS
KIERON GILLEN · GUIU VILLANOVA · DIJJO LIMA
MARVEL



IN MEMORIAM
DIJJO LIMA
1988–2022

Dijjo was a relatively new addition to the Marvel family, but his gorgeous coloring work on books such as X DEATHS OF WOLVERINE and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN was already turning heads. His talent was immense, and we are grateful for his artistry that, all too briefly, became a part of our stories. Our hearts go out to his family, friends, and fans all over the world.

The **ETERNALS** were created by the alien space gods known as the **CELESTIALS** to protect the Earth. One of the Eternals' chief directives is to correct excess deviation. **DRUIG**, the current Prime Eternal, recently determined that Earth's mutants, with their ability to resurrect themselves, represent excess deviation--and therefore, he has set out to destroy them all. The Eternals loyal to Druig launched a multipronged attack against all mutants. Meanwhile, a faction of the Eternals opposed to Druig are plotting against him, allying themselves with the **AVENGERS**, who are headquartered in the body of a dead Celestial.

AVENGERS · X-MEN · ETERNALS

DEATH TO THE MUTANTS

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YOU'VE MISSED A LOT. IN SHORT?
DRUIG UNLEASHED URANOS THE UNDYING TO DEVASTATE THE MUTANT MARTIAN SETTLEMENT OF ARAKKO.
JACK OF KNIVES WAS **JUST** PREVENTED FROM WINNING THE WAR BY MURDERING THE MEANS OF MUTANT RESURRECTION.
AND NOW WE'RE IN A DRAG-OUT SLUGFEST, WITH THE ETERNALS UNLEASHING THE ANCIENT, SKYSCRAPER-SIZED WAR-ETERNALS, THE HEX.
HOW WOULD DRUIG SUM IT UP FOR HIS LOYALISTS?
DEATH TO THE MUTANTS!
YES, THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
HOW DO OUR HEROES FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS HAVING **JUST** BEEN BROUGHT UP TO SPEED?

THAT'S BAD.
I LIKE THE MUTANTS.
LEMURIA,
DEVIANT CAPTIAL CITY. RECOVERING FROM ATROCITIES INCURRED DURING THE THANOSIAN TERROR.
GUYS... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
SIMPLE. WE FLY TO STAND AGAINST INJUSTICE.
IT IS BIGGER THAN MERE JUSTICE. DRUIG RELEASED URANOS. SATAN WAS FREED FOR HIS GAIN.
THAT WAS HIS FIRST STEP. WHAT'S HIS NEXT?
HOPEFULLY, WE WON'T FIND OUT. I'VE BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE AVENGERS, AND WE HAVE A PLAN...
"CONSULTING" IS SERSI'S SHORTHAND FOR "THE AVENGERS BEAT HER UP AND ARRESTED HER, THINKING SHE WAS PART OF IT, BUT THEY'VE KISSED AND MADE UP."
METAPHORICALLY SPEAKING, THERE'S BEEN NO KISSING YET. I FEAR THAT THIS IS NOT THE KISSING KIND OF STORY, MORE'S THE PITY.
WE PRIESTS OF THE OLD AND THE NEW HAVE PLANS TO BRING A NEW GOD TO EARTH.
A CELESTIAL WHO CAN REWRITE OUR NATURE AND SET THE ETERNALS FREE.
AND THEIR FIRST ACT WOULD BE TO END THIS WAR.
WE HAVE CONVENED A TEAM OF HUMANS AND A MUTANT SPECIALIST TO USE THE CORPSE OF THE CELESTIAL THE AVENGERS LIVE INSIDE AS A STRUCTURE FOR OUR NEW GOD.
TO FINISH IT, WE NEED CERTAIN PARTS. WHEN WE HAVE THEM, WE CAN--
I HAVE A QUESTION.

YOU ALREADY SHOWED ME YOUR PLANS. I SAID IT WOULD RISK WAR.
YOU SAY YOU HAVE A MUTANT EXPERT ALREADY. THIS IS NATHANIEL ESSEX--THE CREATURE WHO GUTTED THE DREAMING CELESTIAL.
SO...DID YOU KIDNAP MISTER SINISTER?
OF COURSE YOU DID. DID YOU EVEN WAIT FOR THE WAR TO BEGIN TO PUT YOUR PLAN INTO ACTION?
ARE WE JUST *LUCKY* THERE WAS A WAR FOR YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF?
WAIT! DID YOU *KNOW* THE WAR WAS COMING, AJAK, AND MERELY TAKE ADVANTAGE?
YOU TALKED TO DRUIG AND RELEASED ME. WHAT *ELSE* DID HE TELL YOU?
WHAT DID YOU *KNOW?* WHAT DID YOU *GUESS?*
ENOUGH, PHASTOS.
YOU CAN JUDGE ME BY THE RESULTS. AT THE END OF THIS, WE WILL HAVE A GOD AND DELIVERANCE. I HAVE FAITH IN THIS.
ALONG THE WAY, WE CAN SAVE THE WORLD.
JUDGE ME *THEN.*

DAMN YOU.
WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?

COME, GODLY SMITH: BE A SMITH OF GODS.

VERY WELL. IT WILL BE DONE. THERE IS NO CHOICE.
WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?
WE MARCH TO WAR.

PERHAPS LATER. THERE'S ONE LITTLE THING THE PRIESTS NEED US ETERNALS TO SECURE. IT WILL REQUIRE ANOTHER SÉANCE, IN THE BOWELS OF LEMURIA.
THENA--YOU'LL NEED TO TALK TO KRO TO GAIN ACCESS. KRO AND I MAY BE FLIRTING, BUT THIS IS A FAVOR WHICH REQUIRES A MORE PROFOUND FRIENDSHIP.
VERY WELL. AND WHAT WILL EVERYONE ELSE DO?

WHEN WE HAVE ACCESS?
WE'LL NEED BODYGUARDS.

LATER.
BE SWIFT, THENA. THIS IS OUR MOST SACRED AND PROFANE SITE.
THERE WILL BE MANY DEVIANTS WHO'D JUDGE ME FOR LETTING YOU STEP WHERE THE GODS LASHED OUT...
IT HAPPENED HERE?
NO, IT *HAPPENED ALL OVER THE CITY.* THE *SECOND HOST* OF THE CELESTIALS RETURNED TO EARTH AND FOUND US IN THE FULLNESS OF OUR POWER. I WAS YOUNG. I REMEMBER HOW PROUD WE WERE...
THIS IS WHERE THEIR FIRST STRIKE WAS MADE, IN ALL ITS RAGE AND AWFUL MAJESTY.
THIS IS WHERE WE LEARNED WITH FULL CERTAINTY THAT OUR GODS DO NOT LOVE US.

IT'S SO PEACEFUL HERE.
NO, SPRITE.
NOT PEACEFUL.
JUST QUIET.
THIS IS THE FURTHEST PLACE FROM PEACEFUL.
IT MAY COMFORT YOU TO KNOW THAT THESE ARE NOT ACTUAL PAIN-WRACKED GHOSTS.

THEY ARE SHADOWS BURNED INTO THE FIRMAMENT OF REALITY BY THE POWER OF THE CELESTIALS' HATE.
AJAK'S THEOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY GIVES THEM A LITTLE FORM.
THEY HAVE FORM ENOUGH FOR SERSI TO GATHER WHAT SHE NEEDS.
THEY HAVE FORM ENOUGH TO LASH OUT IN ANGUISH ONE LAST TIME.
AS THE ETERNALS GATHER EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY TO THE NATURE OF THE CELESTIALS, SERSI THINKS...
"OUR GODS DID THIS. THE ONLY GODS WE'VE EVER KNOWN."
AND THEN SHE HAS TWO CONTRADICTORY THOUGHTS...

"WHY WOULD WE MAKE ANOTHER?"
"HOW COULD WE NOT TRY TO MAKE A BETTER ONE?"
I WOULD NEVER WALK THAT PATH AGAIN.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO LIVE THROUGH THAT, KRO. I'M AMAZED YOU DID.
I FEEL SICK.
KRO. I... IT'S HORRIBLE.
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU SUCCEEDED. LET'S HOPE THIS NEW GOD IS MORE CLEMENT THAN THE OLD ONES.
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN COOK UP.
FINGERS CROSSED!
NOW WE ARE FREE TO EXPRESS OUR... DISPLEASURE WITH DRUIG'S LEADERSHIP.
OH, YOU'RE FREE, ARE YOU?
YOU GO TO FIGHT DRUIG'S ETERNALS AND GUESS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
A CLUE: LOOK AROUND.
YOU GET TO BE THE HERO. WE PAY THE PRICE.

YOU ARE RIGHT. WE WRITE TALES OF OUR VALOR IN YOUR BLOOD.
BUT BY THE UNRELENTING GAZE OF ESON! DRUIG'S ACTIONS ARE NOT RIGHT.
I DIDN'T SAY DON'T DO IT. I SAID DON'T LET THEM KNOW YOU DID IT.
IF WE DEVIANTS ARE TO BE DRAGGED INTO THIS AWFUL SERIES OF EVENTS, I'D HAVE IT BE THROUGH OUR ACTIONS, NOT YOURS.
WHY NOT DO SOMETHING OUT OF CHARACTER, IKARIS?
BE CLEVER.
HMM.
I HAVE AN IDEA.
HE DOES. YES, I'M SURPRISED TOO.

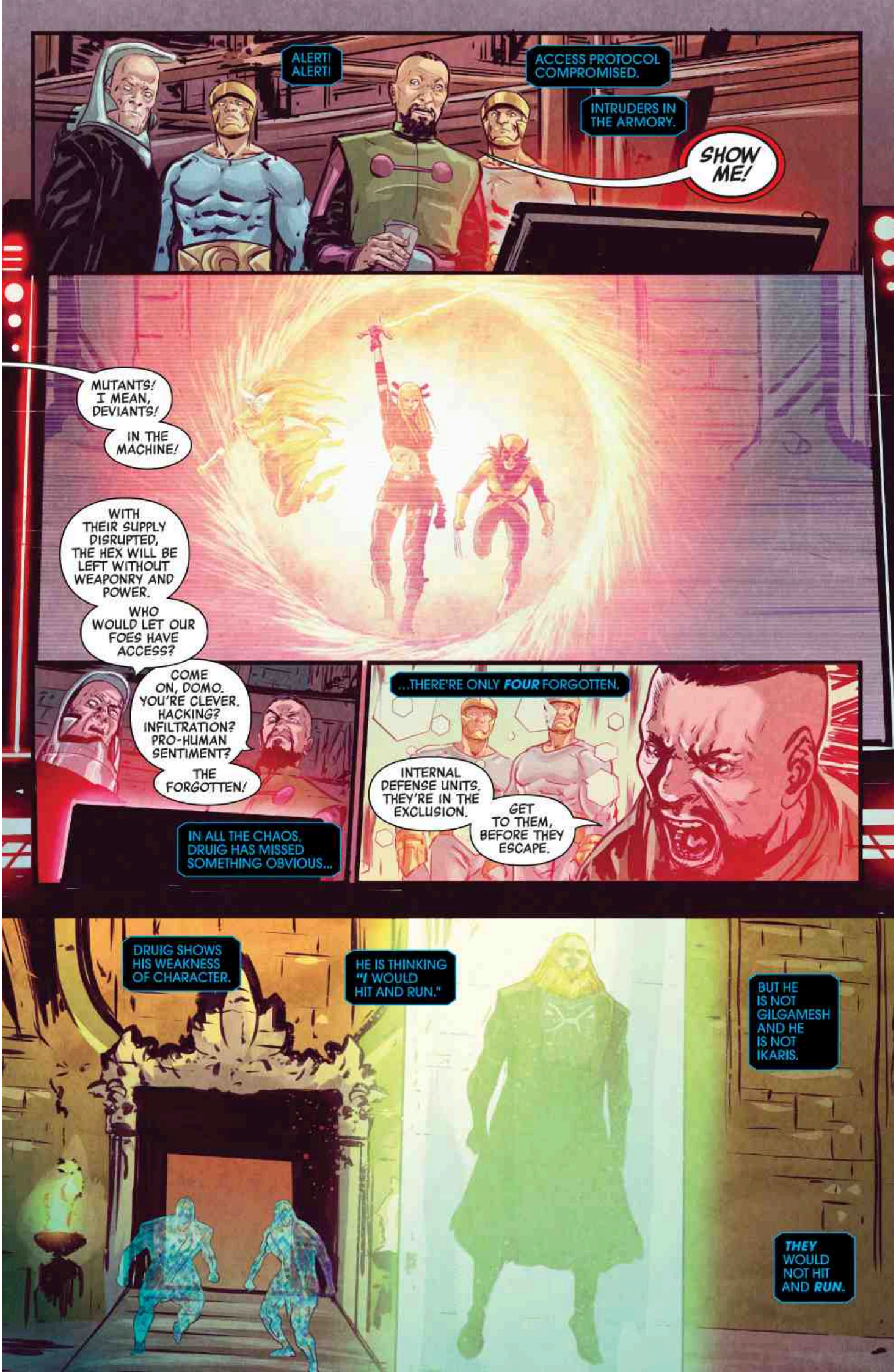
CAN WE HOPE IT'S ALSO A GOOD IDEA?
FRIEND? CAN YOU HEAR ME, FRIEND?
I HAVE A QUESTION?
THE SUBSPACE TUNNELS,
DEEP INSIDE THE MACHINE.
FRIEND?
SHHN
KKNNNNNH
HELLO, GILGAMESH.
HOW MANY OF THESE STEALTH SUITS DO THE FORGOTTEN HAVE?

OLYMPIA, THE WAR ROOM,
THE CENTER OF A NEURAL-STRATEGIC WEB LINKING ALL HOSTILES.
WOW.
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHAT THE HEX CAN DO. IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE URANOS HID THE KEYS.
THEY REALLY ARE SOMETHING.
UPDATE, MACHINE. HOW LONG CAN THEY KEEP THIS UP?
UGH.
FIVE OF THE HEX DEPLOYED. SYNE IS RESURRECTING, HAVING BEEN KILLED.
ALL RUNNING AT MAXIMUM COMBAT POTENTIAL, MAINTAINED BY LIVE-CONNECTION TO CELESTIAL ARMORIES.
HE MAKES ME SOUND LIKE SUCH A NERD.
THAT'S GOOD NEWS.
AND HOW GOES THE PSYCHIC SIEGE, ZURAS?
OH, YOU STUPID BOY.

IT IS HARD.
THE PSYCHIC SIEGE IS A DISTRIBUTED ATTACK TO PREVENT THE MUTANTS FROM OPERATING ELEGANTLY.
IN TRUTH, IT IS LESS SIEGE AND MORE EROSION.
THE BEST MUTANT PSYCHICS ARE GROTESQUELY POWERFUL, BUT HAVE ONLY FLESHY BODIES.
ETERNALS DON'T HAVE THE TOP-LEVEL TALENT...BUT THEY'RE NOT FLESHY LITTLE THINGS.
DO YOU PLAY VIDEO GAMES? RPGs?
(YES, THE PLANET EARTH IS BOTH A NERD AND A GEEK.)
ANYWAY, PUT IT LIKE THIS:
MUTANTS DO A LOT MORE DAMAGE.
ETERNALS HAVE A LOT MORE HIT POINTS.
THE ETERNALS AREN'T TRYING TO WIN THE PSYCHIC WAR. THEY'RE JUST TYING UP THE BEST X-PLAYERS...
DON'T WORRY, ZURAS. WHEN SYNE IS REDEPLOYED, IT'LL LIKELY BE ENOUGH TO FINISH KRAKOA...
OH, IT MUST BE SO FRUSTRATING FOR THEM...BEING ATTACKED BY SOMEONE THEY CAN'T ATTACK BACK.
THIS IS CORRECT. THE ETERNAL CITIES ARE SECRET CITIES WITH CLOSED DOORS.
SOMEONE FINDING A WAY TO CHANGE THAT...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA.

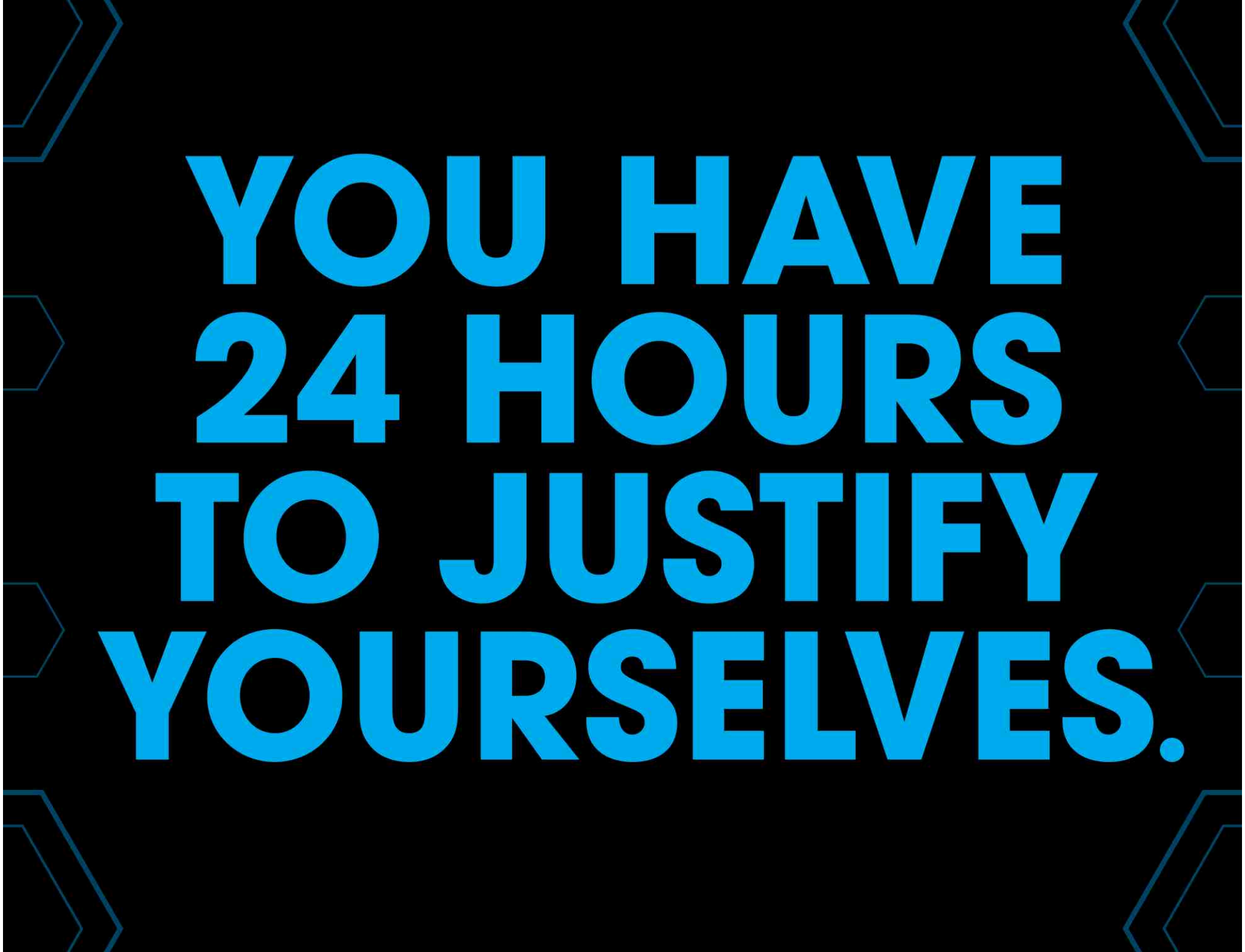
THE EXCLUSION.
DRUIG HAS THOUGHT OF IT TOO AND GUARDS THE MACHINERY THAT WOULD LET ONE DO SO.
THIS IS KALOS THE DESTRUCTOR OF THE OCEANIC WATCH. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE HIM.
YOU DON'T GET CALLED "THE DESTRUCTOR" IN ETERNAL SOCIETY FOR YOUR EXPERTISE IN FORTNITE.
HE HAS CERTAIN GIFTS.
WE'RE SPOTTED!
I'VE HACKED THE CONNECTIONS. WE'VE GOT PRIVACY.
VERY WELL, TAKE HIM DOWN.
ER... NO!
DON'T REALLY THINK SO!
HE UNFOLDS A HYDRA PATTERN FROM HIS INFRA-CAVERNS.
SIX IS A HOLY NUMBER.
SIX WOULD BE THE NUMBER THAT COULD TAKE HIM DOWN.

BUT HE FACES *SEVEN.*
THE FORGOTTEN, IKARIS AND KINGO TO FIGHT...
...LEAVING SPRITE FREE TO DO THE REQUIRED SNEAKINESS...
UPLOADING A FORGOTTEN SPECIAL TEMPORARY OVERRIDE TO THE ARMORY ACCESS. IT WON'T DEPLOY UNTIL THE SAFEGUARDS ARE NEUTRALIZED.
GOT THE BOOM-BOOM READY, IKARIS?
AYE.
X-MEN: LISTEN.
THE WAY IS OPEN.


ALERT! ALERT!
ACCESS PROTOCOL COMPROMISED.
INTRUDERS IN THE ARMORY.
SHOW ME!
MUTANTS! I MEAN, DEVIANTS! IN THE MACHINE!
WITH THEIR SUPPLY DISRUPTED, THE HEX WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT WEAPONRY AND POWER.
WHO WOULD LET OUR FOES HAVE ACCESS?
COME ON, DOMO. YOU'RE CLEVER. HACKING? INFILTRATION? PRO-HUMAN SENTIMENT? THE FORGOTTEN!
IN ALL THE CHAOS, DRUIG HAS MISSED SOMETHING OBVIOUS...
...THERE'RE ONLY FOUR FORGOTTEN.
INTERNAL DEFENSE UNITS. THEY'RE IN THE EXCLUSION.
GET TO THEM, BEFORE THEY ESCAPE.
DRUIG SHOWS HIS WEAKNESS OF CHARACTER.
HE IS THINKING "I WOULD HIT AND RUN."
BUT HE IS NOT GILGAMESH AND HE IS NOT IKARIS.
THEY WOULD NOT HIT AND RUN.

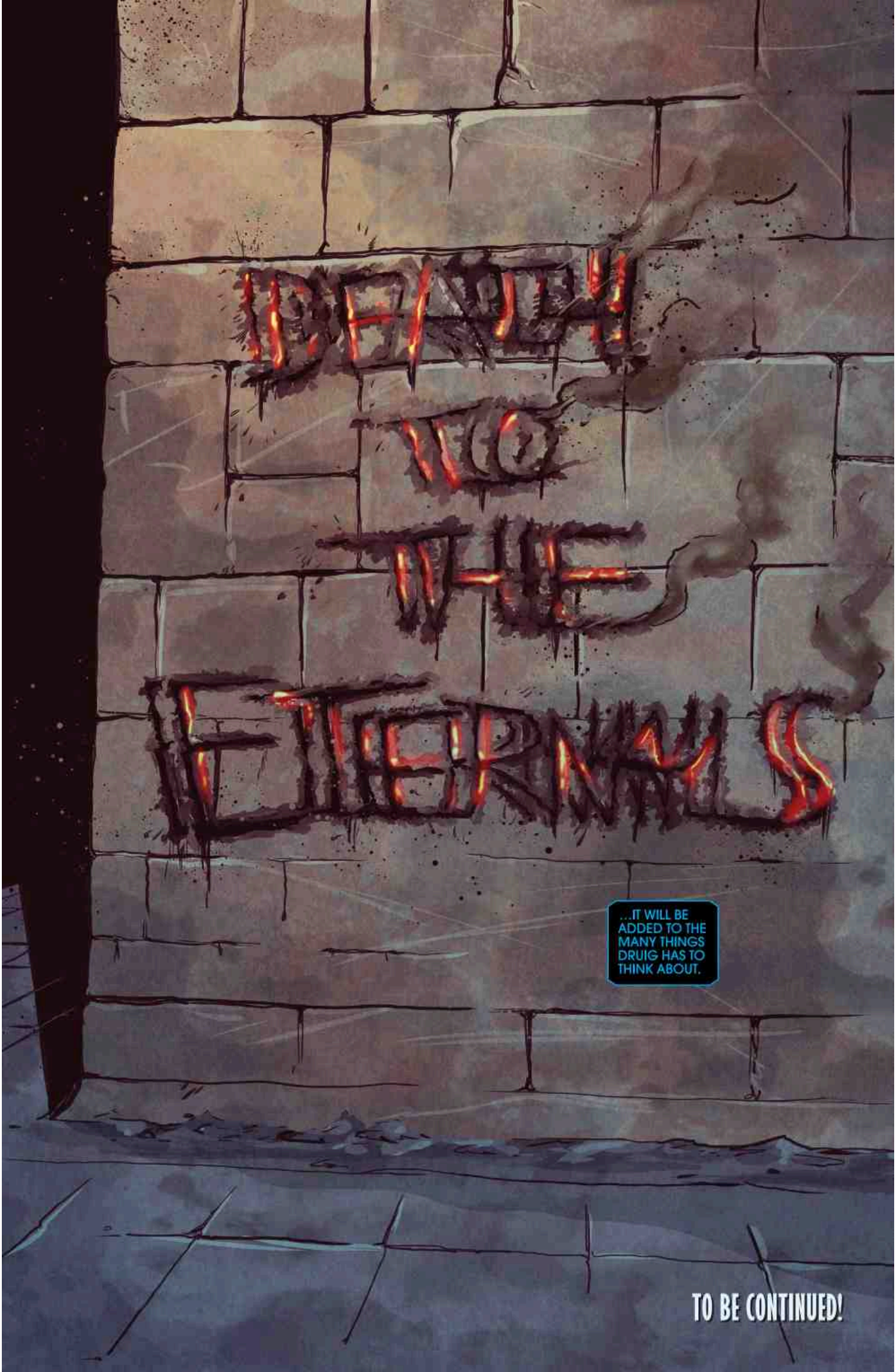
THEY WOULD HIT AND THEN HIT AGAIN.
THE WEAPON TEMPORARILY TELEPORTS A SMALL PART OF ZURAS' BRAIN INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION, LEAVING HIS MIND WITH A MISSING CONNECTOR.
ZURAS CAN'T THINK, SO HE CAN'T FIGHT. HE ALSO DOESN'T DIE, SO A HUMAN ISN'T KILLED TO RESURRECT HIM.
BUT STILL: THE SIEGE BREAKS.
NO! YOU... SPOILSPORTS!
SO...THE GREAT MUTANTS' MINDS ARE FREED FROM OUR INTERFERENCE.
THE DEPLOYED HEX ARE RUNNING ON FUMES. WE ARE IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION...
WE ARE. JUST...
HELL, SYNE IS READY TO REDEPLOY AS PLANNED. SHE CAN STILL FINISH THIS, WITH LUCK. ROLL THE DICE.
UNLESS SOMETHING ELSE INTERRUPTS US, WE CAN STILL WIN TODAY.
YES, YOU'RE CORRECT...

...DRUIG IS TO BE DISAPPOINTED.
Avengers Mountain, THE NORTH POLE.
PHASTOS MAKES THE FINAL TOUCHES.
I SHUDDER AS THE CELESTIAL AWAKENS.
THE EARTH'S NEW MANAGEMENT IS HERE.
THE CELESTIAL SPEAKS TO ALL SENTIENT LIFE.
IT IS DIFFERENT FOR THOSE WHO ARE PART OF THE MACHINE.
IT MAY BE A NEW GOD, BUT IT IS A GOD OF THE ETERNALS.
TO US, IT IS MORE DIRECT.
SO FAR, THE ETERNALS HAVE HAD THREE PRINCIPLES.
THE CELESTIAL GIVES A FOURTH...


YOU HAVE
24 HOURS
TO JUSTIFY
YOURSELVES.

IT'S LOGICAL THAT ALL EYES FALL TO THEIR LEADER.
BOLD ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED--INSPIRATION AND VERVE.
AND DRUIG THINKS...
"I HAVE NO &%#@ IDEA WHAT TO DO."
RETREAT. HOLD UP. GET OUR DEFENSES WORKING.
LET'S TAKE A BEAT. SEE WHAT'S NEXT.
THE ETERNALS OBEY, BUT A THOUGHT IS BOUNCED AROUND PRIVATE PSI-CHATS.
URANOS WOULDN'T HAVE SAID, "LET'S TAKE A BEAT."
DRUIG'S MASK SLIPS AND EVERYONE KNOWS HOW UNSUITED HE IS FOR THIS ROLE...
...INCLUDING DRUIG.
I'VE GOT TO BE BETTER THAN THIS. DOMO: CONSULT THE ARCHIVES AND I'LL SPEAK TO URANOS.
AND MOST OF ALL...

"...MAKE SURE THE FORGOTTEN DON'T ESCAPE."
HMPH. JUSTIFY OURSELVES?
THIS WORLD BLEEDS BECAUSE OF OUR ARROGANCE. WE HURT HUMANS BY EXISTING.
EVEN I, WHO TRIED TO PROTECT THEM, KILLED THEM INDIRECTLY. WE DIE, THEY DIE.
THE PRINCIPLES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RIDDLES. I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS ONE.
...I THINK I DO TOO.
IKARIS AND GILGAMESH ARE LONG GONE BEFORE DRUIG'S DROOGS FIND THE MESSAGE...


DEATH TO THE ETERNALS
...IT WILL BE ADDED TO THE MANY THINGS DRUIG HAS TO THINK ABOUT.
TO BE CONTINUED!

AVENGERS · X-MEN · ETERNALS

JUDGMENT DAY

CHECKLIST

JULY

- ● A.X.E.: EVE OF JUDGMENT #1
- ● A.X.E.: JUDGMENT DAY #1

AUGUST

- ● IMMORTAL X-MEN #5
- ● X-MEN RED #5
- ● A.X.E.: JUDGMENT DAY #2
- ● A.X.E.: DEATH TO THE MUTANTS #1
- ○ X-FORCE #30
- ○ X-MEN #13
- ○ A.X.E.: JUDGMENT DAY #3
- ○ WOLVERINE #24
- ○ X-FORCE #31
- ○ X-MEN #14

SEPTEMBER

- ○ A.X.E.: DEATH TO THE MUTANTS #2
- ○ IMMORTAL X-MEN #6
- ○ MARAUDERS #6
- ○ WOLVERINE #25
- ○ A.X.E.: JUDGMENT DAY #4
- ○ X-FORCE #32
- ○ X-MEN RED #6
- ○ A.X.E.: JUDGMENT DAY #5
- ○ FANTASTIC FOUR #47
- ○ AVENGERS #60
- ○ A.X.E.: AVENGERS #1
- ○ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #10

OCTOBER

- ○ A.X.E.: DEATH TO THE MUTANTS #3
- ○ A.X.E.: X-MEN #1
- ○ A.X.E.: IRON FIST #1
- ○ A.X.E.: STARFOX #1
- ○ CAPTAIN MARVEL #42
- ○ FANTASTIC FOUR #48
- ○ IMMORTAL X-MEN #7
- ○ X-FORCE #33
- ○ X-MEN RED #7
- ○ A.X.E.: ETERNALS #1
- ○ LEGION OF X #6
- ○ A.X.E.: JUDGMENT DAY #6

NOVEMBER

- ○ A.X.E.: JUDGMENT DAY OMEGA #1

#2
NEXT
The Eternals are going after mutants to "correct excess deviation."
A certain group of people has strong opinions about that...

ZONE